

SB3304



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

SB3304

Introduced 2/19/2016, by Sen. Chapin Rose

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-15

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that the Article does not apply to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches teaching no more than one high school class per school year if the class has been approved by the State Board of Education as having academic value, in which case the student may be awarded course credit for the class.

LRB099 18412 NHT 42788 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 21B-15 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-15)

7 Sec. 21B-15. Qualifications of educators.

8 (a) No one may be licensed to teach or supervise or be
9 otherwise employed in the public schools of this State who is
10 not of good character and at least 20 years of age.

11 In determining good character under this Section, the State
12 Superintendent of Education shall take into consideration the
13 disciplinary actions of other states or national entities
14 against certificates or licenses issued by those states and
15 held by individuals from those states. In addition, any felony
16 conviction of the applicant may be taken into consideration;
17 however, no one may be licensed to teach or supervise in the
18 public schools of this State who has been convicted of an
19 offense set forth in Section 21B-80 of this Code. Unless the
20 conviction is for an offense set forth in Section 21B-80 of
21 this Code, an applicant must be permitted to submit character
22 references or other written material before such a conviction
23 or other information regarding the applicant's character may be

1 used by the State Superintendent of Education as a basis for
2 denying the application.

3 (b) No person otherwise qualified shall be denied the right
4 to be licensed or to receive training for the purpose of
5 becoming an educator because of a physical disability,
6 including, but not limited to, visual and hearing disabilities;
7 nor shall any school district refuse to employ a teacher on
8 such grounds, provided that the person is able to carry out the
9 duties of the position for which he or she applies.

10 (c) No person may be granted or continue to hold an
11 educator license who has knowingly altered or misrepresented
12 his or her qualifications, in this State or any other state, in
13 order to acquire or renew the license. Any other license issued
14 under this Article held by the person may be suspended or
15 revoked by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,
16 depending upon the severity of the alteration or
17 misrepresentation.

18 (d) No one may teach or supervise in the public schools nor
19 receive for teaching or supervising any part of any public
20 school fund who does not hold an educator license granted by
21 the State Superintendent of Education as provided in this
22 Article. However, the provisions of this Article do not apply
23 (i) to a member of the armed forces who is employed as a
24 teacher of subjects in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of
25 any school, (ii) ~~nor~~ to an individual teaching a dual credit
26 course as provided for in the Dual Credit Quality Act, or (iii)

1 to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its
2 branches under the Medical Practice Act of 1987 teaching no
3 more than one high school class per school year if the class
4 has been approved by the State Board of Education as having
5 academic value, in which case the student may be awarded course
6 credit for the class.

7 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the
8 school board of a school district may grant to a teacher of the
9 district a leave of absence with full pay for a period of not
10 more than one year to permit the teacher to teach in a foreign
11 state under the provisions of the Exchange Teacher Program
12 established under Public Law 584, 79th Congress, and Public Law
13 402, 80th Congress, as amended. The school board granting the
14 leave of absence may employ, with or without pay, a national of
15 the foreign state wherein the teacher on the leave of absence
16 is to teach if the national is qualified to teach in that
17 foreign state and if that national is to teach in a grade level
18 similar to the one that was taught in the foreign state. The
19 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
20 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt rules as
21 may be necessary to implement this subsection (e).

22 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)